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# THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

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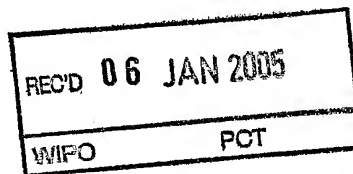
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December 07, 2004

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APPLICATION NUMBER: 60/509,063

FILING DATE: December 05, 2003



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*W. Montgomery*  
W. MONTGOMERY  
Certifying Officer

PATENT APPLICATION SERIAL NO. \_\_\_\_\_

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE  
FEE RECORD SHEET

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U.S. GPO: 2000-468-987/39595

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Carsten Andersen  
Docket: 09663.0069US01  
Title: NICOTINE DELIVERY PRODUCT AND METHOD FOR PRODUCING IT

22154 U.S. PTO  
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**CERTIFICATE UNDER 37 CFR 1.10**

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By:

*Teresa Anderson*

Name: Teresa Anderson

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P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

We are transmitting herewith the attached:

- ☒ Transmittal sheet, in duplicate, containing Certificate under 37 CFR 1.10.
- ☒ Utility Patent Application: Spec. 8 pgs; 20 claims; Abstract 1 pgs.:
- ☒ An unsigned Combined Declaration and Power of Attorney
- ☒ Application Data Sheet, 2 pages.
- ☒ Return postcard
- ☒ **PAYMENT OF THE FILING FEE IS BEING DEFERRED.**

MERCHANT & GOULD P.C.  
P.O. Box 2903, Minneapolis, MN 55402-0903  
(612) 332-5300

By:

*Brian H. Batzli*

Name: Brian H. Batzli

Reg. No.: 32,960

Initials: J. Gresens:BHB:mmm

**23552**

PATENT TRADEMARK OFFICE

(PTO TRANSMITTAL - NEW FILING/DEFERRED FEES)

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## Application Data Sheet

### Application Information

Application Type::	Regular
Subject Matter::	Utility
Suggested Classification::	
Suggested Group Art Unit::	
CD-ROM or CD_R?::	None
Number of CD disks::	
Number of copies of CDs::	
Sequence Submission::	No
Computer Readable Form (CRF)?::	No
Title::	NICOTINE DELIVERY PRODUCT AND METHOD FOR PRODUCING IT
Attorney Docket Number::	09663.0069US01
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Request For Non-Publication::	No
Suggested Drawing Figure::	
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Small Entity::	No
Latin Name::	
Variety Denomination Name::	
Petition Included::	No
Petition Type::	
Licensed US Govt. Agency::	
Contract or Grant Numbers::	
Secrecy Order in Parent Appl.?::	No

Initial 12/05/03

## Applicant Information

Applicant Authority Type:: Inventor  
Primary Citizenship Country:: DENMARK  
Status:: Full Capacity  
Given Name:: Carsten  
Middle Name::  
Family Name:: Andersen  
Name Suffix::  
City of Residence:: Vejle  
State or Province of Residence::  
Country of Residence:: DENMARK  
Street of mailing address:: Pedersholms Alle 61  
City of mailing address:: Vejle  
State or Province of mailing address::  
Country of mailing address:: DENMARK  
Postal or Zip Code of mailing address:: DK-7100

## Correspondence Information

Correspondence Customer Number:: 23552

## Representative Information

Representative Customer Number::	23552
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## Assignee Information

Assignee Name:: Fertin Pharma A/S  
Street of mailing address:: Industrivej 8  
City of mailing address:: Vejle Øst  
State or Province of mailing address::  
Country of mailing address:: DENMARK  
Postal or Zip Code of mailing address:: DK-7120

Initial 12/05/03

## Nicotine delivery product and method for producing it

### FIELD OF THE INVENTION

5 This invention relates to a nicotine delivery product comprising nicotine, a cation exchange resin and a polyol, such product having a nicotine release rate of at least 80 % over a 10 minute period, as well as a method for producing it.

### BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

10 Nicotine is a well known, highly characterized alkaloid that can be isolated from the dried leaves of *Nicotiana tabacum*. Its numerous commercial uses include utilities such as a fumigant, an insecticide and the like. It is therapeutically valuable in the treatment of the smoking withdrawal syndrome. This treatment is based on the fact that the administration of nicotine into the body has been readily accomplished by the method of smoking, e.g., from cigarettes, pipes or cigars. The smoker experiences a satisfactory sensation from  
15 such administration. However, smoking may be associated with health hazards not necessarily associated with nicotine administration itself.

As a result, non-smoking methods have been devised to administer nicotine to the body. These include nicotine containing chewing gums, nicotine-  
20 impregnated dermal patches, nicotine inhalers and the like. A variety of patents have disclosed such products.

US Patent No. 4 692 462 discloses a transdermal drug delivery system having a drug reservoir composed, in part, of an ion exchange resin. The drug reservoir also contains water and a hydrophilic polymer gel. The presence of  
25 the water causes the drug to become unbound and therefore to have a disadvantageously short shelf life.

WO 94/08572 is similar to the above-identified US 4 692 462 patent but has a non-aqueous component, which increases the shelf life.

US Patent No. 3 901 248 discloses a chewable smoking substitute composition which comprises a chewing gum base and a nicotine/cation exchange resin complex dispersed in said gum base. When such composition is chewed, nicotine is released in small and reduced amounts into the mouth, within the first few minutes of chewing. The composition is marginally effective in inducing the pleasurable sensation of smoking that is typically desired from those engaged in the therapy that incorporates such chewing gum.

US Patent No. 6 586 449 discloses in claim 1 a method for preparing a nicotine composition having a nicotine release rate of not less than 70% over a 10 minute period said method comprising (a) mixing an aqueous solution of an organic polyol with a cation exchange resin selected from the group consisting of (i)- a methacrylic, weakly acidic type of resin containing carboxylic functional groups, (ii)- a polystyrene, strongly acidic type of resin containing sulfonic functional groups, and (iii)- a polystyrene, intermediate acidic type of resin containing phosphonic functional groups, thereby forming a cation exchange resin mixture having some of its ion exchange sites partially blocked with said polyol; (b) admixing with said mixture of step (a) an aqueous solution of nicotine to form a nicotine-coated cation exchange resin admixture; and (c) removing water from said admixture to produce said nicotine composition having a nicotine release rate of not less than 70% over a 10 minute period.

It is explained in the patent specification that in carrying out the claimed process it is necessary to combine the organic polyol with the cation exchange resin to form a mixture (slurry). Thereby, as stated in claim 1 above, a cation exchange resin mixture is formed having some of its ion exchange sites partially blocked with said polyol. To the mixture thus formed is admixed an aqueous solution of nicotine, and the admixture is then dried to remove the water. According to the Examples, release rates of nicotine from dried compositions prepared in this way with different polyols were in the range of 70-77 %, compared to 65-66 % without polyol, over a 10 minute period determined according to the procedure set forth in the U.S.P. Official Monograph, Volume 25, pages 1225 and 1226.

## SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

Surprisingly, we have now found that by reacting a nicotine/cation exchange resin complex as described in US 3 901 248 with an organic polyol in aqueous solution and drying the resulting product, a nicotine delivery product is  
5 obtained which has the same nicotine loading capacity as the compositions disclosed in US 3 901 248 and US 6 586 449, but has an even higher nicotine release rate of at least 80 % over a 10 minute period

Accordingly, the present invention provides a nicotine delivery product comprising the reaction product of a nicotine/cation exchange resin complex and  
10 an organic polyol.

In addition, the present invention provides a method for preparing a nicotine delivery product said method comprising (a) mixing an aqueous suspension of a nicotine/ cation exchange resin complex with an organic polyol or an aqueous solution thereof, and (b) removing water from the mixture to produce  
15 said nicotine delivery product.

In another aspect, the present invention provides a method for preparing a nicotine delivery product said method comprising

- (a) mixing an aqueous solution of nicotine with a cation exchange resin thereby forming a nicotine/cation exchange resin complex,
- 20 (b) admixing with said complex of step (a) in aqueous suspension an organic polyol or an aqueous solution thereof to form an aqueous slurry of nicotine/cation exchange resin complex incorporating organic polyol, and
- (c) removing water from said slurry to produce said nicotine delivery product.

Generally, nicotine/cation exchange resin complexes suitable for use according to this invention are complexes of nicotine with a cation exchange resin  
25 selected from the group consisting of

- (i) a methacrylic, weakly acidic type of resin containing carboxylic functional groups



(ii) a polystyrene, strongly acidic type of resin containing sulfonic functional groups and

(iii) a polystyrene, intermediate acidic type of resin containing phosphonic functional groups.

- 5 Generally, organic polyols suitable for use according to this invention are non-toxic C2 to C12 linear or branched hydrocarbons having at least 2 hydroxy groups and non-toxic C5 to C12 cyclic or heterocyclic hydrocarbons having at least 2 hydroxy groups.

- 10 Further, the present invention relates to a chewable gum composition comprising a chewing gum base and a nicotine delivery product as defined above substantially uniformly distributed in said chewing gum base.

#### DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

- 15 In accordance with the present invention, a nicotine delivery product, methods for preparing such nicotine delivery product, and compositions containing such nicotine delivery product are disclosed. The nicotine in the nicotine delivery product herein has a release rate of not less than 80% over a period of 10 minutes. The method by which such release rate is determined is described in more detail in the U.S.P. Official Monograph, Volume 26, pages 1309-1310.

- 20 The product produced by the process according to the present invention contains, in addition to the above disclosed nicotine, a cation exchange resin and an organic polyol.

- 25 The higher release rate for products according to the present invention is surprising and, without being bound by any theory, we may offer the following explanation:

In a product without polyol, the binding between nicotine and the cationic resin is dominated by ionic bonds.

The same type of binding is found in the product according to the present invention, but is expected to be covered by the added polyol giving a high concentration of polyol on the surface of the particles.

5 In the process disclosed in US 6 586 449 a fraction of the ionic binding sites are physically blocked by the polyol which will also penetrate deeper into the resin particles before the loading of nicotine. The particles will therefore have a relatively high concentration of polyol in the center with nicotine on the surface.

10 In the release test according to the U.S.P. monograph the product is treated with a solution containing sodium chloride ions, which will start an ion exchange reaction with the nicotine resin complex resulting in the release of the ionically bound nicotine.

15 It is believed that the polyol will act as an humectant during the release test and thus give rise to a better contact between the resin complex and the test solution. This effect will be more pronounced in the product according to the present invention due to the very high concentration of polyol on the surface of the resin complex particles, which may explain the observed difference in release rates.

20 Any non-ionic pharmaceutical grade cationic ion exchange resin used to bind anionic molecules at the ion exchange sites may be employed in this invention. Examples of such cationic materials are: those bearing a carboxylic acid group, such as a weakly acidic type of resins containing carboxylic functional groups (these resins are typically derived from polymers or copolymers of methacrylic acid or polymethacrylic acid); the strongly acidic type of resins  
25 containing sulfonic functional groups (these resins are typically derived from polymers of styrene or copolymers of styrene and divinylbenzene); or the intermediate acidic type of resins containing phosphonic acid functional groups (these resins are typically derived from polymers of styrene or copolymers of styrene and divinylbenzene).

Cationic ion exchange resins are well known in the art and the present invention encompasses all of these. Representative cation exchange resins of use in accordance with the present invention are disclosed in US Patent No. 3 901 248. The preferred cation exchange resins are those known in the art as the Amberlite® resins and include, for example, Amberlite® IR20, Amberlite® IRP69, Amberlite® IRP64, Amberlite® IRP58, Amberlite® IRC50, Amberlite® IRP69, etc.

The product in accordance with the present invention also contains an organic polyol. The organic polyol is a non-toxic C<sub>2</sub> to C<sub>12</sub> linear or branched hydrocarbon having at least 2 hydroxy groups or a non-toxic C<sub>5</sub> to C<sub>12</sub> cyclic or heterocyclic hydrocarbon having at least 2 hydroxy groups.

Examples of such polyols are:

C3

1,2 Propanediol (propylene glycol), 1,3 propanediol (trimethylene glycol),  
15 1,2,3 propanetriol (glycerol);

C4

Erythritol;

C5

Xylitol;

20 C6

Sorbitol, mannitol, 1,6 hexanediol, cyclohexanehexol (inositol);

C12

Maltitol, maltitol syrup, lactitol, isomalt;

Mono- and disaccharides

25 Glucose, glucose syrup, fructose, sucrose.

In the first step of the process according to the present invention an aqueous solution of nicotine is mixed with the cation exchange resin to form a slurry of nicotine resin complex in water. The ratio of cation exchange resin to nicotine

is from about 1:1 to about 10:1, preferably from 2:1 to 6:1, and most preferably about 4:1.

To ensure a fast and complete reaction between nicotine and the cation exchange resin it is important to include sufficient water in the mixture. The percent of total added water in the process before drying is from 15 to 90 % by weight, preferably from 25 to 65 % by weight.

In the process according to this invention the organic polyol is adsorbed to the nicotine cation exchange resin complex. The ratio of resin to polyol is from about 1:1 to about 10:1, preferably from 2:1 to 8:1, and most preferably about 2,4:1.

The resulting aqueous slurry of the nicotine/cation exchange resin complex with adsorbed organic polyol is then dried to remove the water. Such drying can be carried out by any conventional means, i.e. dried over a purge of nitrogen, dried under vacuum, etc. However, in the drying procedure temperatures in excess of 75-80 °C should be avoided as this may cause loss of nicotine. Preferably, the temperature should be kept below 60 °C.

The dried product is typically milled and/or sieved to a substantially uniform particle size before being used.

The nicotine delivery product according to this invention is particularly suited for use in smoking substitution devices delivering nicotine such as chewing gum, patches, lozenges, melting tablets and tablets for chewing.

The following Examples illustrate the method of the present invention and the nicotine delivery product resulting from such method. These Examples should not be regarded as limiting the invention in any sense.

## EXAMPLES

### Procedure

A 40 liter Stephan mixer equipped with scraper and stirrer was charged with 4.32 kg of ion exchange resin Amberlite® IRP64. In a separate container  
5 1.08 kg of nicotine was mixed with 8.75 kg of water for ½ to 1 minute and the solution added to the mixer. The nicotine container was rinsed with further 2 kg of water which was also added to the mixer. The mixer was closed and stirred for 60 minutes.

Then, a mixture of 1.80 kg of glycerol and 1 kg of water was added to the  
10 mixer, and the slurry was stirred for 20 minutes.

Thereafter, the slurry was dried by heating to max. 60 °C under vacuum at a pressure of about 30-100 mbar (about 25-75 mmHg) with stirring. The drying process was stopped when the water content was about 3 % by weight.

### Results

15 The dried sample was analysed for nicotine content and release rate according to the method specified in the U.S.P. Official Monograph, Volume 26, pages 1309-1310.

	Content of nicotine % by weight	Water content % by weight	Release of nicotine % over 10 min
20	14.9	3.4	86

**CLAIMS**

1. A nicotine delivery product comprising the reaction product of a nicotine/cation exchange resin complex and an organic polyol.
2. A method for preparing a nicotine delivery product said method comprising
  - 5 (a) mixing an aqueous suspension of a nicotine/cation exchange resin complex with an organic polyol or an aqueous solution thereof, and (b) removing water from the mixture to produce said nicotine delivery product.
3. A method for preparing a nicotine delivery product said method comprising
  - 10 (a) mixing an aqueous solution of nicotine with a cation exchange resin thereby forming a nicotine/cation exchange resin complex,  
(b) admixing with said complex of step (a) in aqueous suspension an organic polyol or an aqueous solution thereof to form an aqueous slurry of nicotine/cation exchange resin complex incorporating polyol, and  
(c) removing water from said slurry to produce said nicotine delivery product.
- 15 4. A method according to claim 2 or 3 wherein the cation exchange resin is selected from the group consisting of
  - (i) a methacrylic, weakly acidic type of resin containing carboxylic functional groups
  - (ii) a polystyrene, strongly acidic type of resin containing sulfonic functional groups, and
  - 20 (iii) a polystyrene, intermediate acidic type of resin containing phosphonic functional groups.
5. The method according to claim 4 wherein the cation exchange resin is a methacrylic, weakly acidic type of resin containing carboxylic functional groups.
- 25 6. The method according to claim 5 wherein the cation exchange resin is polacrillex (Amberlite® IRP64).

7. A method according to any one of claims 2-6 wherein the organic polyol is a non-toxic C<sub>2</sub> to C<sub>12</sub> linear or branched hydrocarbon having at least 2 hydroxy groups.
8. A method according to claim 7 wherein the organic polyol is selected from the group consisting of 1,2-propanediol, 1,3-propanediol, 1,6-hexanediol, glycerol and sorbitol.
9. A method according to any one of claims 2-6 wherein the organic polyol is a non-toxic C<sub>5</sub> to C<sub>12</sub> cyclic or heterocyclic hydrocarbon having at least 2 hydroxy groups.
10. 10. A method according to claim 9 wherein the organic polyol is selected from the group consisting of hexahydroxy cyclohexane (inositol) and mono- and disaccharides.
11. A method according to claim 10 wherein the organic polyol is glucose, fructose or sucrose.
- 15 12. The method according to any one of claims 2-11, wherein the concentration of nicotine in said aqueous solution of nicotine is from about 5% by weight to about 50% by weight.
13. The method according to any one of claims 2-12, wherein the ratio of cation exchange resin to nicotine is from 1:1 to 10:1.
- 20 14. The method according to claim 13, wherein the ratio of cation exchange resin to nicotine is from 2:1 to 6:1.
15. The method according to claim 13, wherein the ratio of cation exchange resin to nicotine is about 4:1.
16. The method according to any one of claims 2-15, wherein the ratio of cation exchange resin to organic polyol is from 1:1 to 10:1.
- 25

17. The method according to claim 16, wherein the ratio of cation exchange resin to organic polyol is from 2:1 to 8:1.
18. The method according to claim 16, wherein the ratio of cation exchange resin to organic polyol is about 2.4:1.]
- 5 19. A method for preparing a nicotine delivery product having a nicotine release rate of at least 80 % over a 10 minute period, said method comprising
- (a) mixing an aqueous solution of nicotine with a cation exchange resin selected from the group consisting of
- 10 (i) a methacrylic, weakly acidic type of resin containing carboxylic functional groups,
- (ii) a polystyrene, strongly acidic type of resin containing sulfonic functional groups, and
- (iii) a polystyrene, intermediate acidic type of resin containing phosphonic functional groups
- 15 thereby forming a nicotine/cation exchange resin complex,
- (b) admixing with said complex of step (a) an organic polyol or an aqueous solution thereof to form an aqueous slurry of nicotine/cation exchange resin complex incorporating polyol, and
- (c) removing water from said slurry to produce said nicotine delivery product.
- 20 20. A chewable gum composition comprising a chewing gum base and a nicotine delivery product as defined in claim 1 or prepared by the method defined in any one of claims 2-19 substantially uniformly distributed in said chewing gum base.



**ABSTRACT**

A nicotine delivery product comprising the reaction product of a nicotine/cation exchange resin complex and an organic polyol; and a method for preparing it comprising (a) mixing an aqueous suspension of a nicotine/cation  
5 exchange resin complex with an organic polyol or an aqueous solution thereof, and (b) removing water from the mixture to produce said nicotine delivery product. The nicotine delivery product has a nicotine release rate of at least 80 % over a 10 minute period. It is particularly suited for use in smoking  
10 substitution devices delivering nicotine such as chewing gum, patches, lozenges, melting tablets and tablets for chewing.

MERCHANT & GOULD P.C.

United States Patent Application

COMBINED DECLARATION AND POWER OF ATTORNEY

As a below named inventor I hereby declare that: my residence, post office address and citizenship are as stated below next to my name; that

I verily believe I am the original, first and sole inventor (if only one name is listed below) or a joint inventor (if plural inventors are named below) of the subject matter which is claimed and for which a patent is sought on the invention entitled:

NICOTINE DELIVERY PRODUCT AND METHOD FOR PRODUCING IT

the specification of which

☒ is attached hereto  
☐ was filed on \_\_\_\_\_ as application serial no. \_\_\_\_\_ and was amended on \_\_\_\_\_ (if applicable) (in the case of a PCT-filed application) described and claimed in international no. \_\_\_\_\_ filed \_\_\_\_\_ and as amended on \_\_\_\_\_ (if any), which I have reviewed and for which I solicit a United States patent.

I hereby state that I have reviewed and understand the contents of the above-identified specification, including the claims, as amended by any amendment referred to above.

I hereby claim foreign priority benefits under Title 35, United States Code, § 119/365 of any foreign application(s) for patent or inventor's certificate listed below and have also identified below any foreign application for patent or inventor's certificate having a filing date before that of the application on the basis of which priority is claimed:

☒ no such applications have been filed.  
☐ such applications have been filed as follows:

FOREIGN APPLICATION(S), IF ANY, CLAIMING PRIORITY UNDER 35 USC § 119

COUNTRY	APPLICATION NUMBER	DATE OF FILING (day, month, year)	DATE OF ISSUE (day, month, year)

ALL FOREIGN APPLICATION(S), IF ANY, FILED BEFORE THE PRIORITY APPLICATION(S)

COUNTRY	APPLICATION NUMBER	DATE OF FILING (day, month, year)	DATE OF ISSUE (day, month, year)

I hereby claim the benefit under Title 35, United States Code, § 120/365 of any United States and PCT international application(s) listed below and, insofar as the subject matter of each of the claims of this application is not disclosed in the prior United States application in the manner provided by the first paragraph of Title 35, United States Code, § 112, I acknowledge the duty to disclose material information as defined in Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, § 1.56(a) which occurred between the filing date of the prior application and the national PCT international filing date of this application.

U.S. APPLICATION NUMBER	DATE OF FILING (day, month, year)	STATUS (patented, pending, abandoned)

I hereby claim the benefit under Title 35, United States Code § 119(e) of any United States provisional application(s) listed below:

U.S. PROVISIONAL APPLICATION NUMBER	DATE OF FILING (Day, Month, Year)

acknowledge the duty to disclose information that is material to the patentability of this application in accordance with Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, § 1.56 (reprinted below):

**1.56 Duty to disclose information material to patentability.**

(a) A patent by its very nature is affected with a public interest. The public interest is best served, and the most effective patent examination occurs when, at the time an application is being examined, the Office is aware of and evaluates the teachings of all information material to patentability. Each individual associated with the filing and prosecution of a patent application has a duty of candor and good faith in dealing with the Office, which includes a duty to disclose to the Office all information known to that individual to be material to patentability as defined in this section. The duty to disclose information exists with respect to each pending claim until the claim is canceled or withdrawn from consideration, or the application becomes abandoned. Information material to the patentability of a claim that is canceled or withdrawn from consideration need not be submitted if the information is not material to the patentability of any claim remaining under consideration in the application. There is no duty to submit information which is not material to the patentability of any existing claim. The duty to disclose all information known to be material to patentability is deemed to be satisfied if all information known to be material to patentability of any claim issued in a patent was cited by the Office or submitted to the Office in the manner prescribed by §§ 1.97(b)-(d) and 1.98. However, no patent will be granted on an application in connection with which fraud on the Office has been practiced or attempted or the duty of disclosure was violated through bad faith or intentional misconduct. The Office encourages applicants to carefully examine:

(1) prior art cited in search reports of a foreign patent office in a counterpart application, and

(2) the closest information over which individuals associated with the filing or prosecution of a patent application believe any pending claim patentably defines, to make sure that any material information contained therein is disclosed to the Office.

(b) Under this section, information is material to patentability when it is not cumulative to information already of record or being made of record in the application, and

(1) It establishes, by itself or in combination with other information, a prima facie case of unpatentability of a claim;

(2) It refutes, or is inconsistent with, a position the applicant takes in:

(i) Opposing an argument of unpatentability relied on by the Office, or

(ii) Asserting an argument of patentability.

A prima facie case of unpatentability is established when the information compels a conclusion that a claim is unpatentable under the preponderance of evidence, burden-of-proof standard, giving each term in the claim its broadest reasonable construction consistent with the specification, and before any consideration is given to evidence which may be submitted in an attempt to establish a contrary conclusion of patentability.

(c) Individuals associated with the filing or prosecution of a patent application within the meaning of this section are:

(1) Each inventor named in the application:

(2) Each attorney or agent who prepares or prosecutes the application; and

(3) Every other person who is substantively involved in the preparation or prosecution of the application and who is associated with the inventor, with the assignee or with anyone to whom there is an obligation to assign the application.

(d) Individuals other than the attorney, agent or inventor may comply with this section by disclosing information to the attorney, agent, or inventor.

(e) In any continuation-in-part application, the duty under this section includes the duty to disclose to the Office all information known to the person to be material to patentability, as defined in paragraph (b) of this section, which became available between the filing date of the prior application and the national or PCT international filing date of the continuation-in-part application.

hereby appoint the following attorney(s) and/or patent agent(s) to prosecute this application and to transact all business in the Patent and Trademark Office connected herewith:

Ali, M. Jeffer	Reg. No. 46,359	Lauer, Deakin T.	Reg. No. 47,892
Altera, Allan G.	Reg. No. 40,274	Leach III, Thomas J.	Reg. No. 53,188
Anderson, Gregg I.	Reg. No. 28,828	Leonard, Christopher J.	Reg. No. 41,940
Atzli, Brian H.	Reg. No. 32,960	Lewis, George C.	Reg. No. 53,214
Beard, John L.	Reg. No. 27,612	Liepa, Mara E.	Reg. No. 40,066
Berns, John M.	Reg. No. 43,496	McDonald, Daniel W.	Reg. No. 32,044
Blackburn, Murrell W.	Reg. No. 50,881	McIntyre, Jr., William F.	Reg. No. 44,921
Bortolotti, Rebecca	Reg. No. 51,488	Mueller, Douglas P.	Reg. No. 30,300
Brown, Jeffrey C.	Reg. No. 41,643	Nelson, Anna M.	Reg. No. 48,935
Bruess, Steven C.	Reg. No. 34,130	Parsons, Nancy J.	Reg. No. 40,364
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Adiano, Christina M.	Reg. No. 37,628	Sorge, Keith M.	Reg. No. 50,865
Bolla, Charles E.	Reg. No. 26,896	Stewart, Alan R.	Reg. No. 47,974
Borman, Alan G.	Reg. No. 38,472	Stoll-DeBell, Kirstin L.	Reg. No. 43,164
Botfredson, Garen J.	Reg. No. 44,722	Strouse, Thomas J.	Reg. No. 53,950
Bould, John D.	Reg. No. 18,223	Sullivan, Timothy	Reg. No. 47,981
Bresens, John J.	Reg. No. 33,112	Swenson, Erik G.	Reg. No. 45,147
Braack, John L.	Reg. No. 36,154	Trembath, Jon R.	Reg. No. 38,344
Bramre, Curtis B.	Reg. No. 29,165	Underhill, Albert L.	Reg. No. 27,403
Bennings, Mark	Reg. No. 48,982	Vidovich, Kristin K.	Reg. No. 41,448
Bertzberg, Brett A.	Reg. No. 42,660	Wahl, John R.	Reg. No. 33,044
Bellson, Randall A.	Reg. No. 31,838	Welter, Paul A.	Reg. No. 20,890
Blope, Leonard J.	Reg. No. 44,774	Wier, David D.	Reg. No. 48,229
Bornsby, III, Alton	Reg. No. 47,299	Williams, Douglas J.	Reg. No. 27,054
Bocobson, Charles A.	Reg. No. 53,061	Withers, James D.	Reg. No. 40,376
Bhns, Nicholas P.	Reg. No. 48,995	Wong, Bryan A.	Reg. No. 50,836
Bhnston, Scott W.	Reg. No. 39,721	Xia, Tim Tingkan	Reg. No. 45,242
Bilinsky, Robert A.	Reg. No. 50,471	Zeuli, Anthony R.	Reg. No. 45,255
Billy, Zachary J.	Reg. No. 53,108		
Bettelberger, Denise	Reg. No. 33,924		
Beyys, Jeramie J.	Reg. No. 42,724		
Bearl, Homer L.	Reg. No. 21,197		
Berber, Joshua W.	Reg. No. 51,894		
Bowalchyk, Alan W.	Reg. No. 31,535		
Bowalchyk, Katherine M.	Reg. No. 36,848		
Bumberty, Michael	Reg. No. 50,760		
Burson, James A.	Reg. No. 40,443		

hereby authorize them to act and rely on instructions from and communicate directly with the person/assignee/attorney/firm/ organization to which first sends/sent this case to them and by whom/which I hereby declare that I have consented after full disclosure to be presented unless/until I instruct Merchant & Gould P.C. to the contrary.

I understand that the execution of this document, and the grant of a power of attorney, does not in itself establish an attorney-client relationship between the undersigned and the law firm Merchant & Gould P.C., or any of its attorneys. I will please direct all correspondence in this case to Merchant & Gould P.C. at the address indicated below:

Merchant & Gould P.C.  
P.O. Box 2903  
Minneapolis, MN 55402-0903

hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.

2	Full Name Of Inventor	Family Name Andersen	First Given Name Carsten	Second Given Name
0	Residence & Citizenship	City Vejle	State or Foreign Country DENMARK	Country of Citizenship DENMARK
1	Mailing Address	Address Pedersholms Alle 61	City Vejle	State & Zip Code/Country DK-7100/DENMARK
Signature of Inventor 201:				Date:

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